School district spending analysis—Fiscal year 2022

Prescott Unified School District

District demographic information

District's spending by operational area

Every year, school districts must decide where to allocate their resources. This pie chart shows how Prescott Unified School District spent its funding by operational area, including the percentage it spent in the classroom and specifically on instruction.

We categorize districts with certain similar qualities into operational peer groups in order to help create meaningful comparisons across districts. Prescott Unified School District's peer group had an average instructional spending percentage of 53.4%. This number can help provide context for Prescott Unified School District's own instructional spending percentage.

Classroom spending, 72.0%
- Instruction, 55.0%
- Student support, 11.5%
- Instruction support, 5.5%

Nonclassroom spending, 28.0%
- Administration, 10.0%
- Plant operations, 10.7%
- Food service, 3.1%
- Transportation, 4.2%

For definitions of what is included in operational spending and each of the operational areas, see the "Spending areas" section on the Glossary page.

Instructional spending percentage highlights (FYs 2001-2022)

We have monitored instructional spending since FY 2001. Below are highlights from Prescott Unified School District's instructional spending trend showing the most recent year-to-year change and the years it spent its highest and lowest percentages on instruction. Reviewing these instructional spending percentage highlights can provide insight into short-term (year-to-year comparison) and long-term (highest and lowest comparison) trends of a district's allocation of monies to instruction. Depending on how much a district spends in total, even small changes in a district's percentage spent on instruction can equate to large changes in the actual dollars the district spent.

Prior fiscal year	Current fiscal year	Highest fiscal year	Lowest fiscal year
FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2003	FY 2017
55.3%	**55.0%**	62.6%	50.2%

Why monitor school district spending?

Most school district funding is based on the number of students attending, and districts can choose how to spend most funding, so every decision a school district makes to spend on one operational area directly impacts its ability to spend on another. For example, if a district has higher spending in plant operations, it will have fewer dollars to spend on instruction.

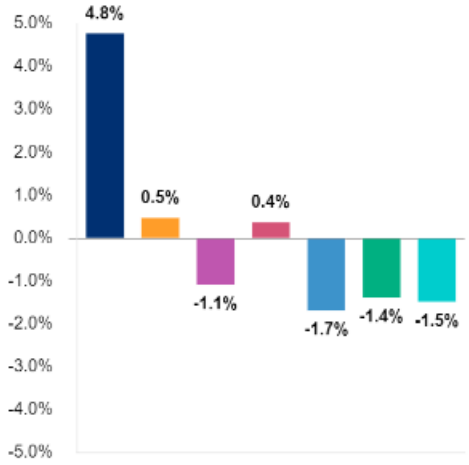
The bar chart below, "Percentage point change in spending by area," illustrates how Prescott Unified School District's spending by area has changed from the prior fiscal year and 5 fiscal years ago.

To put the spending percentages in context, it also can be helpful to review a district's per student spending in dollars. For example, 2 districts may spend the same percentage of their resources on instruction, but on a per student basis, 1 district may spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars more than the other.

Percentage point change in spending by area

Compare District's FY 2022 spending to:

District's FY 2017 spending (5-year trend)



Change in classroom spending, 4.2%
- Instruction, 4.8%
- Student support, 0.5%
- Instruction support, -1.1%

Change in nonclassroom spending, -4.2%
- Administration, 0.4%
- Plant operations, -1.7%
- Food service, -1.4%
- Transportation, -1.5%

Per student spending by area

Compare District's FY 2022 spending to:

District's FY 2021 spending (1-year trend)

Area	District FY 2021	District FY 2022	1-year change
Classroom spending			
Instruction	$5,027	$5,516	+$489
Student support	$1,040	$1,148	+$108
Instruction support	$551	$552	+$1
Nonclassroom spending			
Administration	$896	$997	+$101
Plant operations	$980	$1,072	+$92
Food service	$222	$314	+$92
Transportation	$375	$426	+$51
Total operational	**$9,091**	**$10,025**	+$934
Land and buildings	$867	$163	-$704
Equipment	$492	$383	-$109
Interest	$94	$81	-$13
Other	$129	$70	-$59
Total nonoperational	**$1,582**	**$697**	-$885
Total per student spending	**$10,673**	**$10,722**	+$49

Operational efficiency measures

Performance measures, such as those shown below, can be used in addition to the instructional spending percentage to assess a district's operational efficiency. We have classified the District's spending relative to its peer districts' average as very low, low, comparable, high, very high, or N/A (not available or applicable). High or very high spending when compared to peer averages may signify an opportunity for improved efficiency in that area. A district's data may not be available or applicable if they did not operate a program in that operational area. For example, not all districts operate food service or transportation programs.

For more information on how we calculate these measures, see the "Operational efficiency measure calculations" section on the **Glossary page**.

Operational area	Measure	State average	Peer average	District	District spending relative to the peer average
Administration	Spending per student	$1,088	$1,095	$997	Low
	Students per administrative position	63	64	63	N/A
Plant operations	Spending per square foot	$7.21	$6.65	$5.88	Low
	Square footage per student	167 ft²	168 ft²	182 ft²	N/A
Food service	Spending per meal	$3.25	$3.13	$2.99	Comparable
	Meals per student	158	134	105	N/A

Transportation performance measures are compared using different peer groups because we have found there are other factors, such as the number of miles a district averages for each rider, that impact transportation spending. For more information on how we create transportation peer groups see the "District peer groups" section on the **Glossary page**.

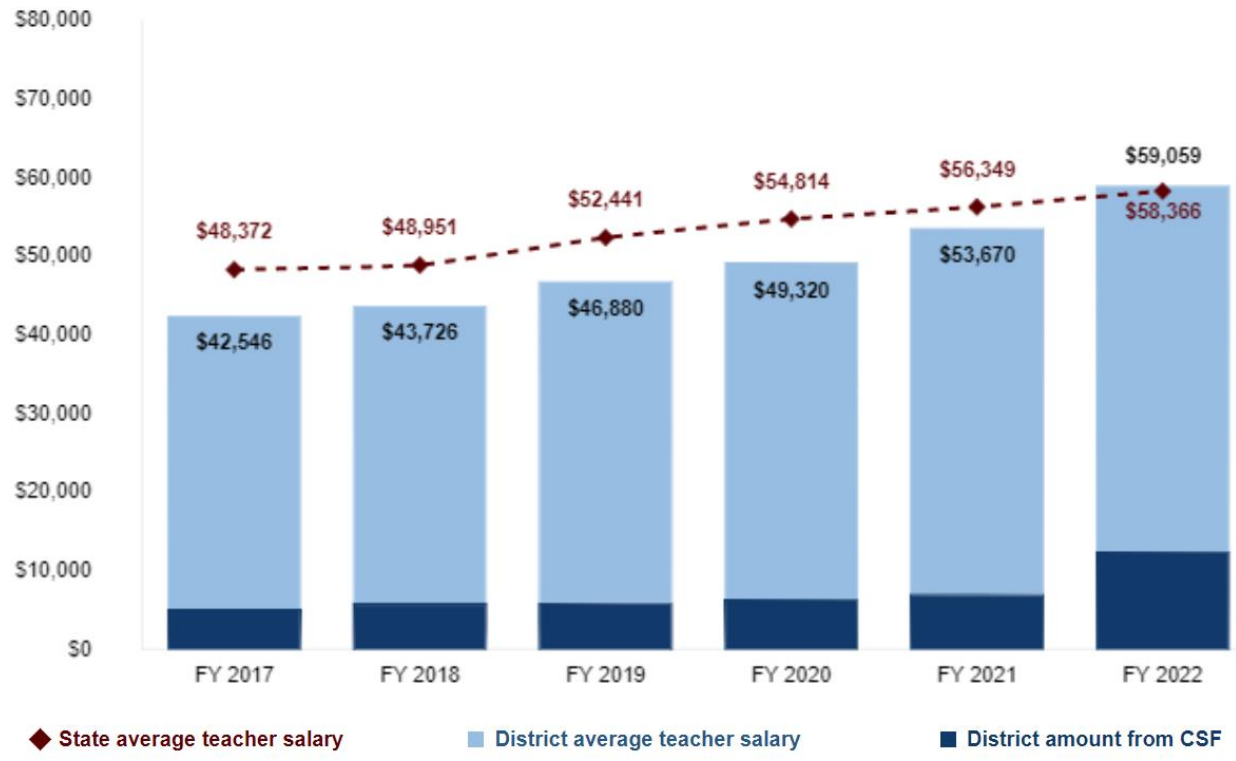
Operational area	Measure	State average	Peer average	District	District spending relative to the peer average
Transportation	Spending per mile	$5.53	$5.44	$4.74	Low
	Spending per rider	$1,945	$2,518	$2,157	Low

Why monitor average teacher salary?

Teacher salaries are one of a school district's most significant costs and have been a topic of high interest in recent years in Arizona. In FYs 2018 through 2021, additional State monies were provided to districts with the intention of increasing teacher salary 20 percent from the FY 2017 base year. The bar chart below shows how Prescott Unified School District's average teacher salary changed during this time and immediately after the annual State increases ended, as well as how it compared to the State average. Further, we show the portion of the District's average teacher salary that was from Classroom Site Fund (CSF) monies.

We have also included a table that displays other student- and teacher-related measures that may provide additional context regarding changes to Prescott Unified School District's average teacher salary. For instance, changes in a district's **teacher population** can impact the district's average teacher salary.

Average teacher salary and other measures



Measure	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Students per teacher	19.6	19.7	18.9	19.7	18.4	18.2
Average years of teacher experience	10.1	10.2	10.6	11.4	11.8	11.8
Percentage of teachers in first 3 years	18%	23%	23%	15%	13%	13%

Student achievement

In FYs 2020 and 2021 State assessment testing was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with school districts being exempted from conducting State assessments in FY 2020 and not all eligible students participating in FY 2021. With nearly all districts returning to in-person learning in FY 2022, we are presenting the percentage of students who passed State assessments for Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science assessments. For FY 2022, we also present an achievement peer group average and the State average for comparison. For more information on how we create achievement peer groups see the “District peer groups” section on the **Glossary page**.